

SENATE BILL 668

By Gresham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37,
relative to siblings in foster care.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 2, Part 4, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

(a) The department shall not separate siblings that are placed in foster care. If
the department finds that the separation of siblings would be in the best interest of each
child, the department may petition the juvenile court to permit the separation. If the court
finds by clear and convincing evidence that separation of siblings is in the best interest
of each child, the siblings may be placed in separate foster homes.

(b) This section shall not apply to:

(1) Juveniles who are placed in foster care due to being found delinquent
or unruly; or

(2) A child who has been subject to physical abuse by the child's sibling.

(c) For the purposes of this section, "sibling" means a brother, sister, half-
brother, half-sister, adopted brother, or adopted sister.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring
it.